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LB 249

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, on the Foley amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we often have to do things by way of compromise here. I hate to say it, but I don't trust what Senator Foley said. I do not trust his comments that the schools would be free to give this information. I do not trust his assurance that nurses may do this. If he is not in opposition to the schools giving this information, and it's permissive, let us amend LB (sic) 71-6909, and make it permissive so that it's clear that the schools may provide this information. You can even specify that the one providing it, if it is provided, shall be the counselor or the nurse. I don't mind you doing that. But to stand on this floor and say that there is no attempt to prohibit the schools from doing this, then there is an objection to making it clear that they may provide it, undermines everything that Senator Foley said. I don't trust the groups that he works with. Now, if Senator Foley were the only one involved and he assured me that he would not be the one to object if a school did this, that's different. He cannot even tell me what those groups stand for. He does not even know the name of the group that led the effort to amend the constitution to prohibit not only gay marriages but those gay partnership arrangements. He doesn't even know which group did that. So without being aware that some of those rabid groups are involved in this mix, he cannot assure anybody on this floor and have his assurance be taken seriously that the schools may do this without repercussion. I don't operate in a vacuum. I have seen groups attack schools because of certain books in the school, like Harry Potter, a book which I've never read but, with all the opposition from the lunatic fringes, I'm going to read it so that I'll have additional material to quote on the floor as I do from the "Holly Bible," which is another book that seems to have great attraction and appeal for zealots and extremists. But in view of the discussion that we've had, I am opposed to Senator Foley's amendment. But I would not be opposed to amending LB (sic) 71-6909 to make it all permissive and make it clear that the schools may provide this information. We would not mandate that it be written, and all the other things that may be deemed onerous; that can be removed. I don't want the schools to be advocates, but I don't want them to be